HIGHER INSTITUTIONS.

Whatever may have been the difference of opinion as to the wisdom of establishing State colleges the policy of the State in this matter has been fixed and these institutions are here and are all doing a good work for the State and if judged by the enrolment of students there is a demand for them. To pull them down or to give them niggardly assistance would be a backward step which I feel that no true son of South Carolina would be willing to take. It is no longer a question whether or not the State ould engage in higher education. That has been settled. To make war on these State institutions is to retard the progress and development of the State. There has been a general awakening in the subject of education in South Carolina and not only has the enrolment in the State colleges been good but the de-nominational colleges have been more prosperous in recent years than ever be-fore in their history. There should be no conflict between the denominational college and the State college. They are both doing a good work. No true friend of any State college will wage werfare on any denominational college and there is no sound reason, for any denominational college to feel funkindly towards the State colleges. The denominational colleges have done and are doing a good work in this State and should receive our hearty commendation. would like to take up each State

college separately and call to your attention the work done and the needs of these institutions, but I can do no more than to refer you ato their reports and recommendations and commendathem to your favorable consideration. The south Carolina College, Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical College, the South Carolina Military academy, Windhrop Normal and Industrial College, and the Colored College, and the College, and the Colored College, and the College, the College College, and the Colored College, the College College College, the College Coll College at Orangeburg will all subthit to tions detailed statementa of their condition and needs and these deserve your careful attention. You should be as economical in the expenditure of money as is consistent with the efficient conduct of the e institutions but to withhold more than is necessary for their proper maintenance would her be wise seconday. I feel sure they will not ask for extrava-gant or unnecessary appropriations and therefore, considerate comments to you a careful study of their needs and demands as set forth in the reports that will be-submitted to you. C PROSERVICE ANDUSTRY.

By reference to the report of the Phosphate Inspector, you will see an itemized statement of the work accomplished duing the last fiscal year. The royalty paid year. This indicates that the companies doing business in our phosphate beds are recovering from the disastrous effects of the great storms of the pest lew years. The care and flevelopment of the phosphate industry of the State is of vital importance and demands our careful consideration. At your last session no provis-ion was made to defray the expenses of the Commissioner and the Board. This expense has been met by the Attorney General, under resolution of the Board, out of funds, collected by him and in his hands. I suggest the advisability of providing a sufficient amount to cover this expense in your appropriation bill. For an itemized statement of the work done by the Inspector I direct your attention to his report.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

As will be seen by reference to their port of the Axioner General, that officers and it is gratifying to uge the successful satisficient hat officer. The publication of some of the opinions of the Attorney General of the alignor question yet devised of the opinions of the Attorney General of a general and public nature is a commendable innocation. The reports of the circuit solicitors contained in that report are worthy of your attention. They show fing [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] . . . [ ] + re. } [ [ ] [ ] [ ]

## FAILROADS.

The twenty-first dinual report of the State-Railroad Commission will be laid before you. It is gratifying to note that the general condition of the railroad business of the State is prosperous. Railroads properly conducted are public benefactors They are in one sense citizens and large tax payers to the State. .: It should be gratifying to every citizen of the State to know that the business of the railroads the past year has been good, for.itindis cates that there has been activity in every ine of industry.

During the year, the Commission in revising the freight tariffs, has made vari-ous changes which have reduced rates to the benefit of shippers without any diminution in the gross revenue of the roads, which has been maintained by the in-

crease of the tonnage.

One of the most important changes in the railroad situation during the year, has been the leasing of the South Carolina and Georgia Railroad by the Southern Railway System. The result of this transaction has been to give the city of Charleston a continuous mileage tariff to all sections of the State reached by these lines. The same is done by the Atlantic Coast Line system. This operation of a straight mileage system by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Southern welld, be unwise and bad judgment, to Railway was brought about in a large measure by the persistent efforts and frial of some other system of controlling rules of the Commission\_who realized the importance of general benefit to be derived from a closer commercial relation in some departments is not an argubetween the seaports of the State ment against the system. That there and the country north and west of should have been disagreement and Columbia. This results in placing our contention amongst those in control is principal scaport city on a reasonable unfortunate. rate basis with the entire State, which. together with just inter-State rates on the eration the abolition of the State and part of these roads, will enable Chasteston, County Boards of Control and that the

great activity in railroad building during him sufficient compensation to com-the past year and I am pleased to give mand the services of such a man. He in the cornection the exact figures which should be given hore authority and

structed from Denmark to Robbins, a

distance of 3.1 miles. The Southern Railway has constructed an extension from Cayce's to Perry, a

distance of 31.2 mile. The Seaboard Air Line has under conis divided responsibility the children struction, and will have completed in a many cases are the sufferers. The few weeks; a line from Cheraw to the stest blessing that could-come to this Junction of the F. C. & P. R. R., a dis-The Sumter and Wateree R. R. con-

structed a line from Sumter Junction to

The North Western R. R. Company have under construction an extension which you can gather the true condition from Sumter to Camden, a distance of 30 of the common schools of the State and miles, to miles of which is in operation, to that report I beg to direct your at- and the other mileage is under rapid construction.

There is under construction a line from point of the Asheviile & Spartanburg R. R. to Lockhart Mills, a distance of 15 miles.

A line from Conway to the Seashore is under construction, a distance of 10 the head of the educational dapartment miles. This will make a total new mileage of 237 miles in the State.

Your attention is directed to the repor of the Commission, in which you will find much valuable and encouraging informa-I submit herewith a synopsis of the

vear's business. RAILROAD EARNINGS. Earnings of the railroads of the State from all sources

for the year ending June 30, 1899...... \$ 8,916,383.04 TOTAL EXPENSES.

Maintenance of way and structures, equipment, conducting .: transportation, general expenses...... 5,831,246.37 383,716.37 axes .....

..... 2,701,430.44 ncome .... Increase in gross earnings over 1898 of .....\$ \$27,053.00 3,377-43 Gross earning per mile... perating expenses per mile. 2,357.95

Net income per mile 1899..... Net income per mile 1898.... Increase per mile..... THE DISPENSARY. There is no question that will engage your attention at this session that will leman? more careful thought and in which there is more interest manifested than that of the control of liquor. You will no doubt have several propos sitions presented to you by different members of your body for your consideration. It is important that you should take hold of the question in a positive and direct manner and meet the issue squarely. Under the Constitution of the State there are only three modes allowed for dealing with this question. "The General Assembly may license persons or corporations to manufacture and sell and retail alcodolic liquors or beverages within the State." "or the General Assembly may prohibit the manufacture and sale and retail of alcoholic liquors and beverages within the State;" o. it "may authorize and empower State, county and municipal officers, all or either, under the authorismand in the name of the State, to buy in any market and retail within the State liquors and beverages in such packages and quantities, under such rules'and regulations, as it deems expedient." And in no case shall it be sold in less quantities than one-halfpint or between sun-down and sun-rise, and it shall not be drunk on the premises. Neither can the General Assemthe State for rock mined in 1895 amounted by "delegate to any municipal corpora-tio \$23,522.64. During the fiscall year just tion the power to issue licenses to alosed itaniounted to \$35,579.28, being an sell the same." Under the last alterincrease of \$15,856.64 over the preceding native the Dispensary Law-is in force.

the era of material progress and development upon which the State has entered I do not believe it would be wise or good business judgment to refer plant to refer a lection Not that there is any uneasiness or nnwillingness to trust the people, but t would have a tendency to renew strifes and bitterness and engender bad feeling and I believe would retard the progress of the State in its material derelopment. Much of the prejudice that has hereto obe existed against the Dispensary Law, has been broken down and many of its most bitter opponents have come to realize its good features and are ready and willing and anxious to see it improved and enforced. With

of the present law and amend and im-prove it. Prohibition is very hice in theory but in existing tircumstances and conditions I do not believe it would be practicable. Extraord tary machinery would be necessary to enforce it and there would be no means with which to employ the machinery exceptby additional taxation, and even then whiskey would be freely sold and .barrooms under the guise of drug stores would spring up and flourish in every town and hamlet in South Carolina. Such has been the experience whereever prohibition has been tried Local option would be even worse than prohibition. To have prohibition in one county, a license systemin an adjoining county, and the dispensary is another, would create no end-of con-

fusion and trouble throughout the State. No law has been enacted in this State in recent years that has been as bitterly opposed and as strongly supported as the Dispensary Law. And yet, with the exception of a few localities, it has been as well enforced as could be expected, being revolutionary as it was. No law can be thoroughly enforced that has not behind it and to support it a

topeal the Dispensary Law and to make the liquor business.
That there has been bad management

" I would recommend for your considwith proper efforts on the part of her mer-chants, to take her position as the leading port on the South Atlantic cost.)

As I investigated, there has been and good business judgment and give

State Commissioner I would suggest the against it. Comptroller General, the State Treasurer and the State Superintendent of Education, with such powers and duties as in your wisdom you may think proper to confer upon them. I do not deem it wise to put the Governor or the Attorney General on this advisory board. You might add to this board the chairman of the Finance Committhis board to meet more than four times a year and at each meeting competitive bids opened in the presence of the Commissioner and such purchases made as would be needed to supply the demand. The State Treasurer is the custodian of the funds, the Comptroller General distributes the school part of the fund arising from the dispensary, and the State Superintendent of Education is which is the beneficiary of the fund. These officers are elected by the people and have to give account to them for the manner in which they discharge their duties and are always men of ability and character.

County Auditor, and the Mayor of the County seat town, if a dispensary be located there, if not the mayor or intendant of some town in the County in which there is a dispensary, constitute the County Board, and that they serve without extra compensation. They too are elected by the people and would have to give account of their stewardofficers are elected and for a term of of the State. two vears.

These changes are suggested not only because in my judgment they would im-prove the administration of the law, but 1,023.36 on the ground of economy. I regret 807.37 that I have not the figures for the last 215.77 fiscal year. They could not be obtained on account, of the assembling of the Legislature coming so near to the close of the fiscal year. The figures, however, will not be materially different from those of the fiscal year 1898, so far as the County Boards are concerned, but the cost of the State Board will undoubtedly be very much increased. In this year the total cost of the County Boards was \$9,724 20. For the same year the cost of the State Board of Control was \$4.390 01, which makes a total of \$14,144.21 as the cost of the State and County Boards of Control and which by their abolition would be turned into the profits of the dispen-

I would also suggest that the law be so amended as to bring violations within the jurisdiction of the magistrates, so that all cases might be promptly and summarily adjudicated. Much of the expense of the constabulary arises from having to attend circuit courts as witnesses and prosecutors against blind

tigers: Soon after I came into office I reduced the constabulary force nearly one-half and endeavored as far as I knew and could secure information to select men of character and discretion to perform the duties of State Constables. As public sentiment grows in favor of the law and nagistrates and their constables, and other officers realize that it is as much their duty to enforce this as any other law, Lam satisfied that the force can be still further reduced and finally entirely

abolished. lar letter to all the magistrates and sheriffs of the State and the mayors and intendents of the incorporated cities and towns, calling their attention to the this question to a popular election. fact that the Dispensary Law was as much a law of the State as, any other law and also directing their attention to their duty to enforce it just as they would the statute against larceny or any other crime, and asking their aid and co-operation in the wise and humane execution of all laws. The responses were numerous and unanimous n expressions of hearty co-operation. Some of them were frank enough to say that they had been and were opposed t the Dispensary Law but manly enough to acknowledge it as a law of the State and to pledge their support and co-operation in its proper enforcement. I am satisfied that this circular has resulted in good and that in many of the cities and towns the local authorities are doing what they can to apprehend violaors and that there are fewer violations if the Dispensary Law than of many

other laws on the statute books. Mr. W. W. Harris, who is clerk and is in charge of this department under my direction, in his report to me says: There is less complaint of the illicit traffic in liquor coming to this office rom throughout the State than ever before during the five years I have been connected with this department and it is very evident that there is less. violation of the Dispensary Law over he entire State, with the possible exception of the city of Charleston and two or three of the counties in the north-west portion of the State, and it s probable that even in those sections. here has been improvement." I sub mit herewith a table showing the comparative cost and the work done by the reduced number of constables for the last six months of 1899 and the correspording six months of 1898. It will be seen that so far as the work done the number of seizures is about the same, while there has been a saving. or the six months of 1899 over the same

umber of Seizures.	x   555552   2
otal Cost of Con-	75696 33 2581 27 2581 29 2582 53 2582 53 2583 80
umber Constables	RESSEN
Mostin	July August September October November Teenber
sərusişê to rədmu	Z 252252 SS 25 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
otal Cost of Con- stabulary.	
umber Constables.	· Saraga
MONTH,	lly ugust iptember ituber ovember ecember

These figures include the cost of ouggy hire, railroad fare for the constables, and the salary of the clerk to gestions and recommendations contained in it. You will also find a full he Governor.

I am glad to be able to state

Control. As an advisory board to the ment of any other law be argued

The annual report of the State Board of Control for the fiscal year ending light. It has appeared in twenty-three December 31, 1899, will be submitted for your information as soon as it can be made, up. As already stated, the portant that stringent measures should fiscal year ending so near the assembling of the Legislature, it was impossible to obtain information showing the business and condition in time for my tee of the Senate and the Chairman of message. I am informed, however, that the Ways and Means Committee of the | the profits will be much larger than in House. It would not be necessary for any previous year since the enactment of the disease to those widely separated of the Dispensary Law .. This does not necessarily mean that the consumption sealed bids could be submitted and these of whiskey has increased but rather it funds at the disposal of the Board: not argues that less whiskey has been shipped in the State for personal use and the blind tigers have decreased and much of the prejudice against the Dispensary Law no longer exists.

I have received from the Comptroller General the following statement of receipts and disbursements on account of special State Dispensary School Fund for 1898-'99: Received from State Dispen-

....\$130,000 00 sary 1898-'99..... Disbursed to the several counties under Act

ciency several counties under Act 1899...... 19,338 02 Disbursed surplus several 2

counties under Act 1899...... 43,457 63-\$130,000 00 I am sure that you will be guided by a wise discretion and exercise good busiship to the people. I would also sug- ness judgment in dealing with this subgest that the county dispensers be ject, and I trust that whatever action elected by the people as other county you may take will redound to the good you may take will redound to the good

CONFEDERATE RECORDS.

The last General Assembly made no provision for the continuance of the office of State Historian and the completion of the work which that officer had in hand. Col. John P. Thomas. who had been appointed to take up the work laid down by Judge J. B. Kershaw and Gen. H L. Farley, and in view of much unfinished business connected therewith, deemed it his duty to keep his office open and to prosecute his la bors on his own responsibility, and as a contribution to the Confederate History of the State.

The result of this year's work appears in the elaborate report submitted to me and by me transmitted to the General Assembly.

It will be seen that the account given of the raising of troops in South Caro eral years been furnishing free tuition lina for State and Confederate service, 1861-'65, which Col. Thomas presents as the joint work of Mr. W. J. Rivers and himself, is a valuable contribution to the history of the part taken by the State in the War Between the States and that taken by the troops furnished by the State to the Southern Confederacy. This paper throws a flood of light upon the rolls and lays the foundation of the sketch designed to accompany the publication thereof, when this publication shall be

rdered by the General Assemby. Col. Thomas further, reports, as the esult of his services for the past year the collection of much additional historic data bearing upon the services of the Confederate soldiery from South Carolina in the War for Southern Indeendence.

The rolls having been practically com oleted, Col, Thomas recommends their publication, properly edited and accompanied by such a sketch as that outlined the one submitted, supplemented by a concise statement of the part taken by each of the organizations from South Carolina which participated in our he-

roic struggle.

The cost of this publication would be very small compared with its historic value. It is important that we should preserve this history and that it should be put in permanent shape while some of those are still living who helped to make it and are more competent to record it accurately than any of their descendants will be. I submit for your consideration the wisdom of continuing the office of State Historian and of making provision for the publication of this history. Estimates have been reeived from a reputable publisher which indicate that it will not take a very great outlay to have this history pubished. It is probable that a sufficient number of copies could be sold to private individuals to reimburse the State for the outlay. Before taking definite action you might appoint a Committee from both Houses to look into this matter and report at the present session. Col. Thomas will gladly furnish the

Committee with such information as he may have. Col. Thomas has submitted to me is resignation as State Historian, to which he was appointed in October. 1897, by Governor Ellerbe. He has given efficient and faithful service during his term of office and has labored hard to gather and put-in shape the part that South Carolina took in that great struggle. He should be compensated for his services during the past

year, and I commend it to your favorable consideration. CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD. The General Government has pur chased the Chickamanga battlefield and converted it into a national park. It is kept in excellent condition and stands as a permanent tribute to the magnificent valor of the American soldier. It is the only battlefield so consecrated. The General Government has asked the various States having troops engaged in that battle to mark the positions o' their troops by the erection of suitable monuments. Many of the States have so honored their sons and \$471,500 have already been expended for this purpose by sixteen States. Georgia leads the Southern States with an expenditure of \$25,000. The General Assembly of South Carolina in 1893 sent a commission to locate the position of her troops and in 1894 appointed commission to select suitable monuments. In view of the prominent part South Carolina took in this war and in this battle it seems but fit and proper that she should join with her sister States in this tribute to the memory of her heroic dead and provide the necessary means to complete the work already commenced. The South Carolina Division U. C. V. will presen a memorial to you asking an appropriation for this purpose of \$10,000. I commend it to your favorable consideration

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. The annual report of the State Board of Health will be submitted to you. "It is important that you should give care ful attention to this report and the sugthe connection the exact ignress which should be given more authority and the connection the exact ignress which should be given more authority and the connection the exact ignress which should be given more authority and discretion and regained to give a good and significant bond and be subject to conflict between the constables and and in this exception one contained and passenger removal by the Governor. As the citizens and in this exception one contained and passenger removal by the Governor. As the citizens and in this exception one contained and passenger removal by the Governor. As the citizens and in this exception one contained and nother wounded and one citizen was killed. This unformation is the constables and contained to combat the disease. Other infections are contained to a more or less extent in some exhibit of expenditures of the Board to the which and the totable property of discretionary power in the manage and one citizen was killed. This unto combat the disease. Other infection and will give comploying the pushes and which much fortunate trouble cannot any more be thousand contagious diseases have premore than a clerk to carre out the charged to the Dispensary Law than vailed to a more or less extent in some ling the passage of the bill when re-in-

The Atlantic Coast Line has can-sules and regulations of the Board of could a similar difficulty in the enforce- parts of the State but have been of a troduced, as it has been or will be. I peace and welfare of the State, would very mild character. Only small pox have seen proper to address a request seem to indicate the necessity of prephas assumed anything like an epidemic form and the mortality has been very counties during the year and is still prevalent in some sections. It is imbe adopted in order to stamp it out before it assumes a more virulent type. The Secretary of the State Board, Dr James Evans, in his report to me says: "It was impossible for the State Board of Health to prevent the rapid spread sections of the State for several reasons. the chief of which was the inadequate being clothed with sufficient power to enforce their authority in isolating, guarding and preventing intercourse with the sick; in enforcing the great safeguard against the spread of the contagion, compulsory vaccination, and the great necessity of extending the health organization to the township which would secure prompt notification of the presence of any contagious or infectious disease to the health authorities, who could thus take prompt action in stamping out any disease before it could possibly infect other persons and become epidemic." This matter deserves your careful attention. To extend the organization from the State Board to the County Board and from the County Board to the Township Board would put in operation machinery that should be able to control and stamp out any contagious or infectious disease before it could have opportunity to spread, and could guard with a jealous eye the health of the State. You have now on your calendar a bill

providing for township boards of health. On account of the prevalence of small pox recently I made arrangements to borrow \$3,000 to be put at the disposal of the State Board of Health in order to stamp out and control the small pox epidemic. Up to this time that fund has not been drawn upon but I have no doubt the State Board has incurred some obligations which will have to be met in handling the disease. The very important matter and should be carefully guarded by the enactment of wise sanitary measures. In the rerort of the State Board you will find several important suggestions and recommen-

dations which should receive your careful consideration.

MEDICAL COLLEGE. The Medical College of the State of South Carolina located at Charleston is not a State institutson but through the kindness of its faculty has for sevto seven deserving young men, one from each congressional district in the State. These young men have been named by the Governor. I thought proper to call this matter to your official attention and to commend this institution for the good work it has been doing for the State.

In our coast counties the oyster business could be made an important industry if proper and wise legislation were enacted to protect the oyster beds. I am informed that tons of oysters are shipped from Beaufort County every week during the winter to canning factories in other States for which the State receives practically no revenue, and these beds are almost inexhaustible. And what is true of Beaufort is true of Georgetown and our other coast counties. It is a much more important matter than some of our people who are not familiar with it imagine. If properly protected. canoperated where the beds are and remun-erative employment given our own people. If they were not and the oysters were exported the State should receive some revenue from them and not voluntarily contribute to enrich other States from property which is ours. I ask for this matter your careful consideration and such legislation as in your wisdom you may conclude proper for the protection of the State. At the session of 1897 some legislation was had along this line but it needs to be amended and perfecte; and made more effective.

CLAIMS FOR CAPTURED AND ABANDON-ED PROPERTY. It has been brought to my notice that

captured and abandoned property of the Southern States, under the Acts of Congress approved March 12, 1863, and July 2, 1864, this being chiefly cotton seized in and around Beaufort during the occupancy of the parishes of St. Helena and St. Luke's while the war was in progress, and elsewhere throughout the Southern States in such parts of the territory as were under Federal control during the war, and after the war by special agents of the Treasury appointed for that purpose. This fund has been the subject of considerable are being made under the direction of contention. Claimants have endeavor- an expert, who will also give the coled to establish their right to it, but owing to the difficulty of bringing suit against the United States, a sovereign, and the peculiar provision of the law under which it was taken requiring iron-clad oaths and proof of loyalty, individual suit could be brought only in a yery few instances. Meanwhile the fund has laid in the Treasury, and individual efforts have continued to be made by persons deeming themselves interested therein, before Congress, to secure the privilege of bringing suit in the Court of Claims. During the years that have passed the subject has been considered frequently by the Supreme Court of the United States, and it has been determined by that tribunal in a lirect decision, (Klein vs. U S 13 W. A. L L. 138 II) that it was not the intention of Congress by the enactment of those statutes, that the title to property seized under them should be divested from the loyal owner: (2) that the proceeds of the property should go into the Treasury without change of ownership; (3) that the same intention prevailed in regard to property of owners, who though hostile at the time the property was taken, might subsequently become loyal: (4) that the Govern-ment constituted itself trustee for those who by that Act were declared entitled to the proceeds of captured and abandoned property. In the 55th Congress a general

bill was introduced opening the door of the Court of Claims to suits by all of these claimants, and favorable reports from the Com-mittees on Claims of both Houses were submitted, recommending the oassage of the bill (Senate Bill 5020 55th Congress, 3rd Session, Report Sen-ate Committee on Claims No. 1634) and these public documents carried on their face the evident justice of such legislaof business before Congress, and so this nessure, so bereficial to a large numper of our citizens, the proceeds of quired in maintaining a creditable and whose property is in that fund, failed an efficient militia organization. at that Congress. With a view of aid-

the several Southern States, whose citizens are in common interested in the fund, and requested them to take similar action, and replies have been received from several of the Governors. showing that they have acted upor this suggestion, and the Legislature of Georgia has passed a resolution requesting its congressional delegation ctively to co-operate, and it is hoped that at the present Congress by united effort, this legislation, long delayed, will be enacted. It is difficult to see why in this era of good feeling, when all the acerbities of the war have gone to their merited oblivion, that the Congress of the United States should withhold from its citizens the simple right to proceed before its own courts, and demonstrate their interests in the fund, for which the highest courts has admitted that they occupy a tiduciary position.

In this connection it is proper to state that much of the evidence upon which these claims exist is rapidly passing away, and some means should be afforded to our citizens to perpetuate this testimony as far as possible, and to enable them to do so a commissioner should be appointed with power to administer oaths who should take depositions of witnesses who are cognizant of facts relative to these claims, put them in a suitable manner, so that this testimony, now so valuable, may be available whenever the Congress of the United States shall see proper to permit these sioner should be appointed without exshould be entirely a matter of agreement between him and the parties who the and a sum of money, not exceeding \$100 health of the people of the State is a might wisely be appropriated to defray the expense of printing needed blanks and purchasing suitable books of

ROADS.

There is no subject of greater im-

portance and that will affect more peo-ple than that of good roads. No sub-

ject will come before you to which you

could give careful consideration with

more profit. The tendency has been for the country population to move to the cities and towns in order to secure the advantages of church and school. If this continues the country districts will become depopulated and the population will be congested in the cities and towns. The condition of the public roads in certain seasons of the year makes it almost necessary that the country people should be denied school, church and social privileges. Unless something is done to arrest this flow of population to the cities and towns the condition of the country districts will become alarming and it is already receiving the attention of the boughtful. The country is the preserver of true manhood and the foster father of manly independence. Nothing willconduce more to its development and desirability as a place of residence than the building of good roads. The saving af time, the saving in the wear and tear of stock and vehicles, and the addition to the loads that could be hauled with more ease, would compensate for fort to the people who travel on th roads in marketing their products and attending church and school. Our conditions are such that it would scarcely be wise to levy an additional tax for this purpose. But by wise and proper use of the means at our disposal much more might be accomplished than is system of county chain gangs if the force were kept at work on permanent improvements and the building of permanent roads instead of cleaning out ditches and throwing a little dirt in the middle, which has to be done over after each rain, much more might be accomplished. Some of the counties have realized the importance of this there remains in the Treasury of the United States the sum of \$10,512,007.96, permanent work and as a result good and permanent roads are being built. I submit for your consideration the imbalance remaining from the sale of portance of requiring all county chain gangs to be kept on permanent work and not be permitted to fritter away their time on work that will have to be done over two or three times a year.

I am glad to report to you that the authorities of Clemson College have realized the fact that road improvement is one of the greatest economical problems of the day and that they are devoting money and time to the study of the problem for the benefit of the farmers of the State. Experiments lege classes a series of lectures on road making. Experiments have also been made at Clemson on the use of broad tires and the results have been published in bulletin form. If in your wisdom you can devise some plan by which you can give to the people of this State better roads you will confer a lasting blessing upon them.

WAR CLAIMS.

During the raising of troops by the State in 1898 for the war with Spain considerable indebtedness was incurred which has not yet been entirely adjusted Claims have been put in against the general government for these several amounts but many of them still remain unpaid. I will submit to you a special message covering, as far as I am able, a full statement of this matter and I desire now simply to direct your attention to this special message. Those citizens who furnished supplies on the order of the Governor of the State should have their money and should not be required to wait any longer for payment. They sold their goods to the State and look to the State for payment and not to the general government. You should make some provision for the prompt and satisfactory adjustment of these claims remaining unpaid. This would not interfere or retard the collection of these claims from the general government and private parties would not be subjected to the inconvenience of being kept out of money justly due them and which they expected to receive in cash. STATE MILITIA.

It is gratifying to note that marked

improvement has been made in the status of the State militia under the present administration of the Adjutant General's department. The number of companies in actual service has been considerably reduced but there has been tion. The bill falled to pass only for an increase in efficiency. You are the reason, as I am informed, that it aware that for several years past the failed to receive attention in the mass support of this Department by the State has been very meagre and really insufficient to meet the demands re-

> Grave social and political conditions. liable at any moment to threaten the

to every member of our congressional aratian at all times. I would, theredelegation, requesting them to give fore, recommend that you be as liberal diligent attention to this important the current year in the support of this measure, and I have also addressed important branch of the State service communications to the Governors of as the finances of the State founded on wise economy will allow.

A full and exhaustive report of all matter relating to this department has been prepared by the Adjutant General for your consideration. I commend it

TAX ON STATE BANKS.

to your careful attention.

The repeal of the ten per cent. tax on State Banks will go far toward solving he money question. This is a matter entirely within the province of the National Congress at Washington but a resolution from the several State Legislatures requesting Congress to repeal this tax would have its influence. Such a resolution from you would give encouragement to our Senators and Representatives in Congress who are making a fight for the repeal of this tax and would be evidence that they had behind them the support and endorsement of the people whom they represent.

BANK AND INSURANCE EXAMINER.

In 1896 an Act was passed creating the office of Bark Examiner. But the Board appointed by that Act did not elect the Examiner, as I am informed. for the reason that no appropriationwas provided for the expenses of the office and the law is, therefore, a dead letter.

There are now more than one hunin permanent shape, and register them | dred insurance companies doing business in this State. Life insurance as well as fire insurance has taken deep root with our people and nearly every man has those who are dependent matters to be litigated. Such a commis- upon him provided against his death with an insurance policy upon his pense to the State, but his compensation life. It is of very great importance should be entirely a matter of agree- to a great many of our people that. companies that solicit business may desire to avail themselves of his in this State should be substantial services in the perpetuation of the evi- and reliable companies, so that the indence relating to their several claims, sured may feel secure that when he pays the premium on his policy, when death comes, those for whose benefit he has paid it may get the insurance. And so with State Banks. A great deal of the business of the country is done through banks and many of our people have their savings in these institutions. They invite the trust and confidence of the people and should be under the supervision of the State. I submit for your serious consideration the wisdom of providing a State Examiner for State Banks and bankers and the insurance companies doing business in this State. All reputable companies and banks should be glad to have such examinations made for their own protection as well as the protection of their customers. The salary and expenses of this office could be provided for by the institutions named in proportion to the business they do. as is done in the case of the Railroad Commissioners.

While we feilicitate ourselves on the number of corporations that have been chartered within the State during the past year and should do nothing to hinder their success it should not be forgotten that they are creatures of the State. Obtaining their existence from the State, you have the right to regulate their operations and the operations of those doing business in this State though receiving their corporate existence from other States. The tendency of these corporations is much outlay in road improvement, not towards centralization and combinato speak of the convenience and com- tion. This tendency leads ultimately weaker institutions out of competition and unless guarded by wise legislation will eventually take away from the individual his dearest rights. While on the other hand if wisely conducted and properly guarded they will do much to develop and bring into life the natural now done. In many of the counties resources of the State. It is a subject much of the work on public roads is that should command your most earbut a shiftless pretence. Under our nest and thoughtful attention. I thought proper simply to call it to your attention, so that while you legislated to foster and encourage corporate enterprises you might also guard and protect the rights and privileges of the individual citizen.

individual citizen.

BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

The advisability of biennial sessions of the Legislature has been frequently called to the attention of the General Assembly by my predecessors. That we have too much legislation we all admit. Fewer changes in our laws as a rule would be better. There would not be that uncertainty in regard to many laws, that now exists. Many States have adopted blennial sessions of their Legislatures. The State Constitution provides for annual sessions of the Legislature and the Declaration of Rights declares, "The General Assembly ought frequently to assemble for the redress of grievances and for making new laws, as the common good may require." I submit the matter to you for your careful consideration, inasmuch as there has been some discussion of this subject and some demand in certain sections for bienpial sessions. As you will see, in order to change, would re-As you will see, in order to change, would re-quire an amendment to our Constitution. LOCAL LEGISLATION.

Much time at each session of the Legislature is consumed with the passage of laws that have only a local application. The attention of the Legislature has been called to the expense of such legislation at different times by my predecessors and yet every session of the Legislature finds itself confronted with a batch of local and special legislation. The Constitution prohibits the passage of local or special laws concerning certain subjects and demands the enactment of general laws to cover the same. You should avoid as far as possible the passage of local and special legislation, for it not only involves expense, but it creates confusion in understanding and knowing just what the law is. Where general laws have not been provided in accordance with the requirements of the Consti accordance with the requirements of the Consti-tution they should receive your attention and, then the introduction of local and special legis-lation should not be permitted.

PAYMENT OF TAXES.

In view of the demand from certain sections that the time for payment of taxes be extended, after consultation with the Comptroller General, by virtue of authority given us by law, we extended the time for the payment of taxes without penalty to the first of February, 1900.

out penalty to the first of February, 1900.

GOOD ORDER.

There has been no mob violence during the past year and general good order has prevailed throughout the State. The county of Darlington is to be congratulated on giving a legal trial and execution for a crime that usually results in summary justice. This spirit is to be encouraged and commended and will result in greater respect for the proper and legal channels of administering the laws.

ninistering the laws.

Liberty is too often construed as license and we Interty is too often construed as neems and we need to instil into our people a regard and respect for constituted authority and that the best and most highly prized liberty is that which is surrounded by restraint. One of the greatest evils of the day and of modern times is the tendency to disregard and disrespect constituted authority and to rebel at the restraint that is necessary to put upon personal freedom in order to secure and enjoy the best and the purest and the sweetest liberty.

to secure and enjoy the best and the purest and the sweetest liberty.

CONCLUSION.

I have thus endeavored to obey the mandate of the Constitution laid upon the Governor to "give to the General Assembly information of the condition of the State, and recommend for its consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary or expedient." I have not presumed to lecture you on economy, for I feel sure that you realize as fully as I do the needs of our people and will be as economical in the expenditure of public money as is consistent with efficient service. The burdens of taxation always fall heavily but where there is a wise and necessary expenditure of the public fund for the general good no reasonable tax-payer will complain. You should deal with the affairs of state in a businesslike manner and as a prudent business man would manage his private affairs. If you find that in any department the expenditures can be cut down without hurt to efficient service it is your duty to cut them down. Useless and extravagant appropriations should under no circumstances even be considered. Prudent and careful economy should guide you in all matters touching the state's finances.

I invoke upon all your deliberations the guidance of an all-wise and overruling Providence and trust that whatever you do may be done with an eye single to the good of all the people of the State.

M. B. McSWEENEY, Governor,